THE AERONAUT.

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"Mores hominum multorum vidit et urbes.
Hor. Ep. II
"He scann'd the countries and the ways of men."

"Navigation hath often united the bodies of
"kingdoms together, but travel hath done
"much more." William Lithgow.

From our Corespondents -
"To the Aeronauts."

"Gentlemen."

Having had from my earliest youth an insatiable desire of travelling and seeing foreign parts, an inspectus which has acquired proportionate vigour, with the elongation and

dilation of my body, I gave vent some days ago to my inclination and in company with a friend packed up my wardrobe, consisting of a few sundries and departed with him. We descended to the water's edge and prepared to take a solar observation; - when we found that we had no quadrant and that the luminary was invisible on account of the clouds which covered all the face of the sky. But I have since discovered that the latitude and longitude are laid down on the map, which supersedes the necessity of mentioning them.

We embarked in an aquatic conveyance called by the people of these parts a horse boat. But I am inclined to think that this novelty is a mere sham, a trick upon travellers. There are a dozen sorry nags in this contrivance who go round in a circular walk with halters round their necks and beams at the other extremity. How this orbicular movement can promote the locomotive advancement of this mammoth boat, is to me a mystery. And as we were six hours in crossing the river, I suspect that they go and come with the tide; and that the horses are a mere catchpenny, to

bring their masters the trigesimo-secundal part of a dollar more on every head, than the custo-mary ferriage levied on passengers. However the unhappy quadrupeds appeared to strain very severely and in their hinder quarters very par-ticularly - Indeed every sinew of that department seemed to be over exerted, while the head, neck & fore legs moved glibly enough; which is certainly a natural curiosity. I account for it in this way. As the horses are all in a string, and the hinder parts of each one immediately subjected to the in-spection of his follower, these noble animals draw up their anteriors from pride and contract their posteriors from decency. But - I do not lay this down as an hypothesis which is defendible until I hear from the Antiquarian Institute at Cork to whom I have transmitted an account of this phaenomenon, with my conjectures thereon

The Ship's company consisted of nine Dutch-men, three of whom had their wives and sundry of their progeny with them; also, one leg of mut-ton, two breasts of veal, one cheese and a pound of tea. One of the females, though apparently of a slender constitution seemed to have a pretty good apetite, for she consumed seventeen apples two loaves of bread and the cheese - and would

probably have proceeded to attack the spare ribs and leg of mutton, of her husband anticipating such a result had not squatted himself down upon them; and being a man of some circumspection, it would have been as difficult a task to have effected their liberation, as to get Eurydice out of Aetna.

Most of the company were smoaking;- and I discovered the cause of the phlegmatic nature of the Dutch - they use such short pipes that the smoak goes up their noses, and as I had reason to believe, makes the whole tour of their bodies. They have some shrewdness however. we observed that the cover of the cabin leaked, and they said it was owing to the cracks.

It was raining very fast when we went aboard - but the blue horizon soon afterwards appeared and we expected to see a very fine rainbow. But we were disappointed - as we have since found that in these latitudes there are no rainbows observable at noon day - a curious fact, which I have also transmitted to the Cork Institute. Hoboken

we landed at ~~Weehawk~~ at half past two P. M - but did not tarry to make many observati-

ons on that place. Its commerce however appears to be in a declining condition, as there were but three xebecs, caiques or galliots lying in the port; two of which were lying in ruins and the third by no means seaworthy. Many causes might be assigned for this. But we dropped a tear over this famous city and wound our course round into the country. The road lay through tall hills, covered with ground, grass, juniperi florentes of diuraus and the granito-rosso and granito-grigio-e-bigio rocks, vertical strata of which intersected ~~with~~ these mountains in every direction and had a very picturesque effect. The road appeared to consist of gravelo-pondato;- Specimens of all these I have sent to Ireland.

We sojourned at an easy pace, reflecting on the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, a subject which the scenery naturally introduced. Our attention however was soon arrested by the singular conduct of a dog. He came up to us as if in despair, and we were afraid at first that he was afflicted with a hydromany. But were soon convinced of our error in that respect. His path was a curvilinear zigzag. now retrograde and now forwards. We then conjectured that he was bewitched;- and gave credence to the

superstitions of the inhabitants in these parts who firmly believe in the doctrine and nail horse shoes over the barn door, to prevent the foul fiend from bedevilling their cattle. One of these charms I examined and have sent a fac simile to the Society aforesaid ... The dog looked in our faces very particularly, whined, hung his ears and carried his tail between his legs, in token of submission. This is the first proffer of service which the canine species make; - When they do fealty, as an acknowledgment of being willing to become your dog, they curl the tail and lay their front legs horizontally bending the head and body gracefully back - which is as much as to say "Je devient votre chien" - The dog kept us company ever after, running before and looking back to let us know he considered himself as our avant-courier, or else keeping by us.

Nothing particular occurred further, until we came to Wetbank. I noticed however that the hogs were immunde of the ancients, are in these parts particularly stupid. etc his name of this is very surprising. one of them had a yoke on his neck, to which was conjoined a stick parallel to the front of his head, perpendicularly directed.

this prevented his getting between the rails of a fence;- but the stupid beast continued bruising his nose, without reflecting that by laying on his side he might with facility have insinuated himself into the delightful bed of clover which tantalized his inability to enjoy it.

We arrived at the Leechaude inn and stimulated with punch and crackers. These last were great curiosities, as they appeared from the taste and inscription upon them, to have been baked in the year 1741. They were probably brought over from Holland, by the present Burgomaster of Leechaude. The Dog ate them apparently with much satisfaction, by which we discovered that he was a country dog, as those belonging to the city are not partial to such food.*

We again set out on our pilgrimage & struck into a different road. We saw two heifers lying on the grass, who did not seem to know what to do with themselves. Here we reflected on the darkness of the middle ages and the blessed effects of the reformation.

We heard something singing, and concluded it was a bird - the 'avis volucris' of Linnaeus.

* I sent some of them to the Academy of Inscriptions, at Paris.

we turned out of the road here to enjoy the prospect afforded by a romantic glen, with a brook in it and cascades according. The Dog washed his feet and we reflected on the source of the Nile.

We discovered an island in this stream, covered with tanseys, bullfrogs and one strait tall walnut-tree - we shook the latter in hopes of procuring some fruit; but as none descended, I suppose it is not the season for them. Here we reflected on the absurdity of young men's forming matrimonial connections with old women. The withered leaves which covered the ground, while the trees above were in all their verdure, led us also to contemplate life and death. The Dog took a drink here.

We returned to Wethersfield through a pine wood; and remarked two particularities in the inhabitants - one is, that they use no pocket-handkerchiefs except on the Sabbath - They are then however only worn for ornament, the wearing making a practice of employing his flag of pollution, after he has performed the nasal emunction with his fingers. This is unquestionably a much cleanlier practice than that of the Europeans and Neo-Eboracians -

The other singularity is, that they wear no gallowes or suspenders. There is an antiquity before the door of the mansion, the date of which we were unable to ascertain. It is a gallows. Whenever any of the inhabitants walked under this, we observed that they bowed gracefully, at the same time holding the waist band of their breeches in their left hands, indulging in that luxury, which one of the monarchs of England said was too great for a subject. By this we discovered the origin of the custom mentioned. Peter Stuyvesant is recorded in the chronicle of Knickerbocker, to have punished minor offences, by tying a rope round the criminals middle, and letting him swim in vacuo on a high gallows. Doubtless this indignity offered to the very seat of honor, was ill brooked by the generous souls of the Dutchmen - and their posterity have inherited their feelings, though they are ignorant of the cause, which makes them, as it were involuntarily perform the feat aforesaid - and forbear gallowses as a memorial of their stigma.

We were here witnesses of a very interesting scene - the last fisherman's adieus & departure - all the rest have left the river long

since, and he was taking his leave of the scene of many a carousal and the companions of many a debauch. They shewed much less sympathy than he did however, and refused to take off his hands a basket of codfish, the sworn which was not indeed very inviting. Prose is too cold to describe this scene, we have therefore done it into verse .....

LAY OF THE LAST FISHERMAN.

The sun was sinking in his glory
Behind the dark bluffs shaggy brow
His ruddy rays streamd thro' its verdure
And streak'd with fire the wave below

Lit by his sad and parting radiance
Was every tint of varying green;
The distant spires of your proud city
Bright flaming in the ray were seen.

Fill'd by the mournful gale of even
The white sails on the water mov'd
When came a mariner all lonely
To bid adieu to scenes he lov'd.

His locks hung scatter'd on the breeze
Like sea weeds wild dishevell'd spread.
Ruddy his visage weather beaten
Like coral moss in ocean's bed.

The waters blue lay calm and stilly
As if to tempt him back again,
When stretching out his arms to heaven
Thus spoke the latest fisherman.

The hour is come - and I must leave ye
To wend where tempests furious blow
Last of my race I fondly lingered
Till hope hath fled - and I must go

Deserted now the lovely river
The bare poles on thy waters stand
And soon the winds & waves careering
Shall root them from the treacherous sand -

Moored in yon gentle creek securely
My little bark! how will thou bide?
Will thy own element destroy thee
Will strangers bear thee on the tide?

O! if their Grasp with hands unhallowed
Should bear thee from that loved retreat -
Gape all thy wounds, and break thy moulden
And midway let them ruin meet!

I go where ocean darkly rages
I go to ride the billowy wave -
Farewell, farewell! I must not linger
If I the ocean storms would brave.

Fare thee well, thou gallant Hudson
If forever, fare thee well,
wafft my last sigh evening breezes
Bear it on, thou murmuring swell!

Fare thee well, thou fir clad Beehawk!
Bend thy dark leaves in the gale,
wave thy cedars now, all mournful
As they seem to bid farewell.

Fare thee well my host who kindly
Still for one bid cheerer foam,
I will bless thee, when all drifting
Driving on the deep I roam.

Fare thee well- too fair Maranmde-
Oh! my heart is failing now-

wild he look'd- put on his old hat
As he rush'd from Beehawk's brow!

Then me thought that by the river
Blest Saint Anthony had stood,
Calling to a second Sermon
All the fishes of the flood!

For the wave was hid, where swarming
wild with joy's delirious power,
Big and little, porpus, killie
Tumbled on its top that hour!

Sport a while ye gentle fishes,
while ye may, for soon ye mourn—
One destroyer now hath left ye,
But a thousand will return!

VIATOR.

To the Peronauts

Gentlemen

I am a man who walk Broadway six hours out of the four and twenty, when the sun shines. As this is foul weather I have been at home practising postures for two days and taking care of my corns. For the tightness of my boots has produced several sore ones and I find it difficult to succeed in any other walk than the Wellington stoop;- which you know we have lately borrowed from the English cockneys who visit the city. It consists in bending the body forwards to any angle between 90 and 45 degrees with the perpendicular line, holding the cuffs of the coat with four fingers and swinging the arms, in a segment equal to two thirds of a circle, and striding rapidly

forwards as if you were straddling for a wager; at the same time looking very sarcastic. In going this gait, You may wriggle as much as you please;- it is not observable. It is perfor:-med best in Cossac pantaloons;- but is on the decline and chiefly practised for notoriety's sake.

Since I am on this subject, I may as well throw out a few hints on the other modes of per-forming the ambulatory step.. There is one, which is an imitation of the military air- it consists in keeping the system perfectly stiff, looking fierce, measuring six inches of ground at each step, and when bowing, bending the head one inch, without mov:-ing any other part of the body. It is best perfor:-med in a tight surtout, with a walking stick.

When three clergymen walk together, they put their hands through each others arms into their breeches pockets, and jog along at a <u>butcher's waddle</u>, which gives an idea of solidity and im:-portance in the performers, to the bystanders.

A Lawyer must walk as if Beelzebub was tweaking his elbow, or a penniless client was following him for advice.

Geniuses may walk any how- they must

take care however not to see any thing in their way:- tumbling children into the gutter or upsetting a huckster's establishment, has occasionally a fine effect. They must always cross a street diagonally, not by the flagged pathway, which has a mechanical appearance.

I have been led to digress from the real object of my letter, and must now postpone it to a further opportunity- For my taylor has sent in his Bill and I must go and bespeak a new coat to keep him quiet-

AMBULATOR-